

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-08 IO-14 USIA-15

COME-00 TRSE-00 IGA-02 L-03 SP-02 /060 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3287

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

UNCLAS CONAKRY 1324

ABIDJAN PASS AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFOOD GV

SUBJECT: GUINEAN FOOD SITUATION AND PL 480 REQUEST

REF: CONAKRY 1244

1. IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY REQUEST, KOUROUMA LAYE, DIRECTOR OF ALIMAG, GOG FOOD DISTRIBUTION AGENCY, SUPPLIED DATA ON CURRENT FOOD SITUATION AND EFFORTS TO IMPROVE IT. HE WAS UNABLE TO ANSWER ALL EMBASSY QUESTIONS BUT GAVE GENERAL IDEA OF PROBLEM.

2. HE STATED THAT APPROXIMATE WAREHOUSE STOCKS AS OF JULY 21 ARE: RICE 5,000 TONS MILLED OR EQUIVALENT; WHEAT FLOUR, 2,900 TONS; AND 2,300 TONS OTHER GRAINS. THESE ARE SOMEWHAT LESS THAN FAO'S JUNE ESTIMATE. SITUATION WHILE STILL NOT DESPERATE IS SERIOUS. SUPPLIES APPEAR SUFFICIENT FOR AT LEAST FOUR WEEKS NORMAL USAGE ALTHOUGH THEY COULD BE STRETCHED. WITH CAREFUL HUSBANDING PL 480 SHIPMENTS DUE IN AUGUST WILL LAST FOR A FEW MONTHS.

3. CURRENT GOG PL-480 REQUEST (REFTEL) SEEMS TO BE ATTEMPT TO GAIN BREATHING SPACE IN FOOD SUPPLY SITUATION AND GET UNCLASSIFIED

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EARLY START ON NEXT YEAR. LOCAL SOURCE STATES THAT FRANCE IS DONATING ADDITIONAL 2,000 TONS WHEAT (I.E. FLOUR EQUIVALENT) BEFORE YEAR'S END. CHINESE AMBASSADOR TOLD CHARGE THAT GUINEA HAD RECEIVED NO RICE FROM PRC IN 1977; OTHER SOURCES SUBSTANTIATE THIS. GUINEA HAS ASKED FAO WORLD FOOD PROGRAM FOR 15,000 TONS OF RICE BUT CHANCES OF APPROVAL ARE VERY POOR.

4. GOG IS MAKING EFFORT TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. PRESIDENT TOURE JUST ANNOUNCED CAMPAIGN TO INCREASE TOTAL ACREAGE BY 22 PERCENT BY 1978. ALIMAG DIRECTOR STATED THAT DESPITE MECHANIZATION IT WAS HARD TO INCREASE TECHNOLOGICAL INPUTS SINCE FARMERS WERE NOT SKILLED IN USE OF FERTILIZER, FARM TOOLS OR MODERN FARMING TECHNIQUES.

5. COMMENT: NUMEROUS GOVERNMENT PRONOUNCEMENTS HAVE EMPHASIZING AGRICULTURE, BUT FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM OF INTERNAL PRICE STRUCTURE REMAINS. GOG DOES NOT YET RECOGNIZE NECESSITY OF REFORMING STRUCTURE TO GAIN INCREASED AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT. TWENTY-TWO PERCENT INCREASE IN ACREAGE IS PROBABLY UNREALISTIC, AND ECOLOGICAL EFFECTS (FOREST DESTRUCTION) ARE NOT BEING CONSIDERED.
MAINLAND

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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